

NEWS WEEK obnium

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THE WEEK IN BEEF

BEEF & CATTLE

Steer trial brings in some of the best

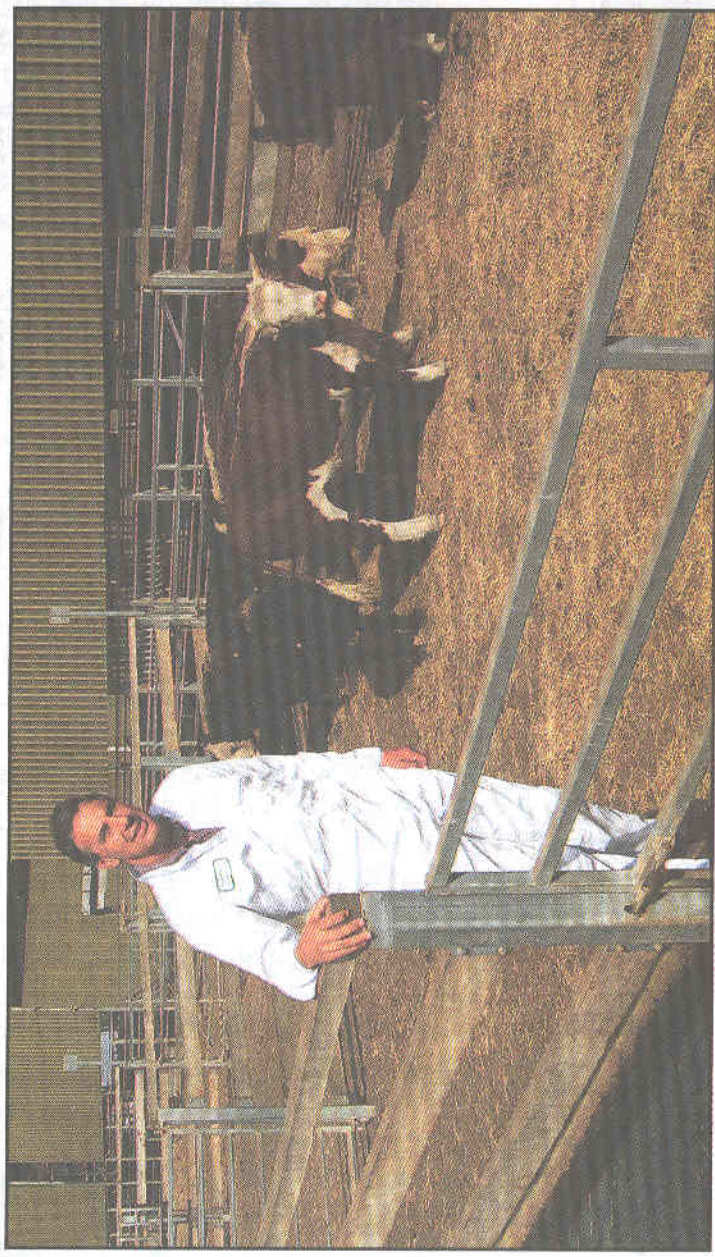
IN its 21st year of competition, the Gippsland Field Days Steer Trial presented some of the best cattle yet, according to sponsor and co-organiser Robert Radford. Mr Radford, managing director of Radfords Abattoir, Warragul, said the quality of cattle was even throughout, and the meat colour was of the best he has seen in the trial's history.

The winners of the trial were announced at the Farm World Field Day last Thursday. The Gippsland Steer Trial has been able to achieve 1kg per head per day over the period of the trial consistently and it is this success that has attracted a range of beef producers to participate.

Mr Radford said the steers are delivered to Lardner Park in mid June and the cattle are grazed purely on grass for the entire period of the trial. "There are always two turn-off sections with the first turn-off for the light domestic market cattle and the second turn-off for the heavy domestic market in mid January."

The national Meat Standards Australia (MSA) is used to grade the cattle and the measurements are then converted to carcass points.

First prize for the combined weight gain and carcass, for the domestic trade section was awarded to Bimbadeen. Presenting Brangus steers the carcass weight was between 210-270kg gained 220.1 points. They were also



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weight gain pair for domestic trade in a tie situation with Ebony Lodge who entered Gelbvieh Balancer cross steers. Both steer pair entries had an average weight gain of 2.88kg/day.

Mt Tekon was awarded first place for the highest carcass score pair with Limousin Lim/Angus cross and a Limousin Lim/Murray Grey cross. They also received first

For the heavy domestic trade turn off, Gayme Farm was awarded first place for combined weight gain and carcasses as well as first place for the heavy domestic live yield. Kingsley Daput Murray Grey with 85.3 points won the Radford award for the best individual carcass.

Mr Radford believes the reason the cattle performed so well this

ment and having access to the additive Nutrimol in the stock water supply.

He also said producers are using the results of the steer trial to improve their herds. "By cross breeding and the use of genetics the cattle have improved. To think we are getting such good results after experiencing the worst drought in history shows